

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00924 150921Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 INR-07 IO-13 PA-01
PRS-01 SCA-01 EB-07 NSC-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/052 W

-----150928Z 074523 /14

O 150835Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3341

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 0924

DEPARTMENT PASS AID/OFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL MU
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CYCLONE DAMAGE: SHOULD USG OFFER HELP?

REF: MUSCAT 0918

1. PEACE CORPS OFFICE HAS WORD THAT VOLUNTEERS IN TOWN OF SUR ARE SAFE. PEACE CORPS REPORTS THAT SUR SUFFERED NO MAJOR DAMAGE FROM STORM, ALTHOUGH 35 HOUSES IN TWO NEARBY VILLAGES WERE FLOODED, DISLODGING INHABITANTS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. NOBODY HURT.

2. COMMANDER OF SULTANATE OF OMAN AIR FORCE (SOAF), COMMODORE ERIC BENNETT, CONFIRMS THAT VILLAGE OF BURASTI HUTS ON MASIRAH ISLAND WAS "DESTROYED." HE PUTS NUMBER OF PEOPLE HOMELESS AT 700 TO 1,000. SOAF HAS INSTALLED TENTS TO QUARTER THEM OVER COMING PERIOD AND IS FEEDING THEM FROM MILITARY SUPPLIES.

3. ACCORDING TO BENNETT, NO DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED BY AIRCRAFT ON MASIRAH. SOME BUILDINGS AT SOAF TRAINING CENTER HAD ROOFS BLOWN OFF, BUT CENTER REMAINS FUNCTIONAL

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AND REPAIRS CAN BE RAPID.

4. BENNETT BELIEVES SOAF CAN HANDLE EMERGENCY SITUATION ON MASIRAH, BUT HE SAID ASSISTANCE WAS COMING FROM MILITARY STOCKS AND FEEDING THE VILLAGERS IS A HEADACHE. IN HIS VIEW, A USG OFFER OF HELP TO THE OMANGOV "WOULD BE WELCOME." MOST USEFUL WOULD BE WHAT HE TERMED "PHASE TWO" AID, BY WHICH

HE MEANT HELP IN GETTING VILLAGERS OUT OF THE TENTS AND,
POSSIBLY, SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD.

5. WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO BENNETT OR ANYONE ELSE.
WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, FOR USG TO CONSIDER A
TIMELY OFFER OF FOOD OR MORE SUBSTANTIAL TEMPORARY QUARTERS

THAN TENTS. MEDICAL SUPPLIES MIGHT ALSO BE SUITABLE,
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM.
WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND HELP IN BUILDING PERMANENT STRUCTURES
FOR VILLAGERS, AS THAT GETS BEYOND EMERGENCY HELP INTO
DEVELOPMENT AREA THAT WE BELIEVE OMANGOV CAN HANDLE
ITSELF. WE WILL BE GUIDED BY DEPARTMENT AND WILL NOT APPROACH
OMANGOV UNLESS INSTRUCTED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, AID SHOULD
NOT BE COMMITTED UNTIL OFFER IS MADE AND OMANGOV ACCEPTS, FOR
DESPITE BENNETT'S VIEW IT IS POSSIBLE OMANI AUTHORITIES WILL
CONSIDER OUTSIDE HELP UNNECESSARY.

6. BARRING FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ON EFFECTS OF
STORM, WE ANTICIPATE NO FURTHER UPDATE REPORTS.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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